CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A computer-implemented method of exporting at least some of a body of data into

2   a dump file, said method comprising the steps of:

3   subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;

4   storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and

5   storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump

6   file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected

7   subsets:

8   (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and

9   (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a

2   plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of

3   subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of data.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a

2   plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of

3   subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the

2   plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the

3   step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets based on numerical

4   information contained in the body of data.

1   5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the

2   plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the

3   step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets alphabetically based on

4   textual information contained in the body of data.

1   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the plurality of

2   subsets in respective storage devices.

1   7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the

2   body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata

3   descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1   8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said

2   selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of said selected subset

3   in the dump file.

1   9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing data contained in said selected

2   subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in selected subset

3   in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump file.

1   10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets

2   from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single

3   selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1   11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets

2   from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer

3   number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1   12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of granting permission to a

2   user to export said body of data.

1   13. A computer-implemented method of importing data into a body of data

2   comprising the steps of:

3   accessing a dump file containing one or more subset markers descriptive of a

4   respective subset of the data, each of said one or more subset markers associated

5   with data belonging to the respective subset;

6   determining whether a marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of a

7   selected subset; and

8   if the marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of the selected subset,

9   then importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data.

1   14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of subdividing the body of

2   data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria;

3   wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body

4   of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according

5   to said partitioning criteria.

1   15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of the step of subdividing the body of

2   data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria includes the steps of:

3   accessing metadata stored in the dump file descriptive of said partitioning criteria;

4   and

5   creating the partitioned table based on the metadata.

1   16. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of importing the data associated with

2   the subset marker into the body of data includes the step of storing the data associated the

3   subset marker into a respective storage device.

1   17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of granting permission to a

2   user to import into said body of data.

1   18. A computer-implemented method of repartitioning a body of data, subdivided

2   into a plurality of subsets, comprising the steps of:

3   exporting one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets of the

4   body of data into a dump file;

5   reconfiguring the body of data according to new partitioning criteria; and

6   importing data exported into the dump file into the body of data according to said

7   new partitioning criteria.

1   19. The method of claim 18, the step of exporting one or more selected subsets from

2   among the plurality of subsets of the body of data into a dump file includes the steps of:

3   storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and

4   storing the one or more selected subsets in the dump file by performing the following

5   steps for each of the one or more selected subsets:

6   (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and

7   (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1   20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the

2   body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata

3   descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1   21. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said

2   selected subset in the dump file includes storing a name of said selected subset in the

3   dump file.

1   22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing data contained in said

2   selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in

3   selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump

4   file.

1   23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets

2   from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single

3   selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1   24. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets

2   from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer

3   number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1   25. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

2   granting permission to a user to export from said body of data; and

3   granting permission to the user to import into said body of data.

1   26. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for exporting at

2   least some of a body of data into a dump file, said sequences of instructions comprising

3   sequences of instructions for performing the steps of:

4   subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;

5   storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and

6   storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump

7   file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected

8   subsets:

9   (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and

10   (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1   27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the

2   body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data

3   into the plurality of subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of

4   data.

1   28. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the

2   body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data

3   into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1   29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the

2   body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the

3   body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets

4   based on numerical information contained in the body of data.

1   30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the

2   body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the

3   body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets

4   alphabetically based on textual information contained in the body of data.

1   31. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing metadata

2   descriptive of the body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning

3   metadata descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1   32. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing a marker

2   descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of

3   said selected subset in the dump file.

1   33. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing data

2   contained in said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data

3   contained in selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker

4   in the dump file.

1   34. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or

2   more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the

3   step of storing a single selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump

4   file.

1   35. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or

2   more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the

3   step of storing a fewer number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of

4   subsets in the dump file.

1   36. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for importing

2   data into a body of data, said sequences of instructions comprising sequences of

3   instructions for performing the steps of:

4   accessing a dump file containing one or more subset markers descriptive of a

5   respective subset of the data, each of said one or more subset markers associated

6   with data belonging to the respective subset;

7   determining whether a marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of a

8   selected subset; and

9   if the marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of the selected subset,

10   then importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data.

1   37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein said sequences of

2   instructions further comprising sequences of instructions for performing the step of

3   subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria;

4   wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body

5   of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according

6   to said partitioning criteria.

1   38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the step of the step of

2   subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria

3   includes the steps of:

4   accessing metadata stored in the dump file descriptive of said partitioning criteria;

5   and

6   creating the partitioned table based on the metadata.